

NHINCC - MEETING NOTES 6 8 10

NHIN Coordinating Committee

In-Person Meeting with ONC

Meeting Notes: 6/8/10 (8:30 - 10:15 am EST)

NOTE: *Portions of the meeting notes related to Confidential Participant Information may have been removed.*

Committee Members (attendance signified with a “✓”)

NHIN Production Participant Members

- ✓ Michael Matthews, MedVirginia (NHIN-CC Chair)
Jim Winn, SSA
- ✓ Stephania Griffin, VA
- ✓ John Mattison, Kaiser Permanente
- ✓ Stone Quillian, DoD
- ✓ Charlie Magruder, CDC (by phone)
- ✓ Marc Overhage, Regenstrief

NHIN Cooperative Representative Members

- ✓ Holt Anderson, NCHICA (NHIN-CC Vice-Chair)

ONC

- ✓ Mary Jo Deering
- ✓ Mariann Yeager (NHIN-CC Secretary)

Invited Subject Matter Experts

- ✓ Steve Gravely, Troutman Sanders
- ✓ Erin Whaley, Troutman Sanders
- ✓ Doug Fridsma, ONC Office of Standards and Interoperability
- ✓ Doug Hill, ONC NHIN Implementation Team
- ✓ Farzad Mostashari, ONC
- ✓ Justine Piereman, SSA
- ✓ Ephraim Feig, SSA

Confirmed Observers

- ✓ Aaron Seib, NeHC
- ✓ Vernetta Roberts, NeHC
- ✓ Leslie Shaffer, DoD
- ✓ Cheryl Stevens, CHIC
- ✓ Michele Grinberg, WVHIN
- ✓ Marty Prah, SSA
- ✓ Ryan Perry, DHIN
- ✓ Jeff Blair, LCF
- ✓ Simon Cohn, KP
- ✓ Elliot Maxwell, ONC
- ✓ Tom Fritz, NeHC
- ✓ Laura Adams, NeHC

Meeting Summary

Agenda Topic #1: Introductions by NHIN CC Chair and ONC Director of Office of Standards and Interoperability

Michael Matthews, NHIN CC Chair, and Doug Fridsma, ONC Director of Office of Standards and Interoperability welcomed the NHIN CC, ONC, NeHC Executive Committee and Cooperative members to the first in-person strategy meeting of the NHIN CC and ONC. Michael Matthews provided some introductory remarks about the status of the NHIN Exchange and the role of the NHIN CC. Currently, the NHIN Exchange has seven Participants that are actively engaged in the exchange live data. The NHIN CC has been tasked by the Participants to provide operational support to the NHIN Exchange. This role is memorialized in the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA), the legal agreement between the Participants that outlines their responsibilities with respect to the NHIN Exchange. Importantly, the NHIN CC is not the “governing” body for the entire NHIN. The NHIN CC is seeking to engage in strategic discussions with ONC to help identify methods for strengthening and growing the NHIN Exchange.

Doug Fridsma also provided some introductory remarks to help set the context for the day’s strategy meeting. The NHIN Exchange is operating in a “time of change” and must be prepared to leverage developments in the HIT arena including meaningful use and NHIN governance. Developments in the HIT arena should also leverage lessons learned from the NHIN Exchange and NHIN CC. The NHIN Exchange is part of a single NHIN that will provide a broad range of choices for data exchange. These choices will provide an escalator for increasing levels of data exchange eventually leading to the NHIN Exchange. It is important for the NHIN CC to identify what is working and is not working for the NHIN Exchange. To the extent that areas of improvement are identified, the NHIN CC and ONC will have to work on improving these areas. Currently, one of the most important areas to focus on is sustainability of the NHIN Exchange, streamlining operations and ensuring that the NHIN Exchange is flexible enough to accommodate the introduction of new Participants and new types of exchanges.

Agenda Topic #2: Sustainability

Over the next 9 months, between 12-18 new organizations may join the NHIN Exchange as Participants. To enable their on boarding and continued participation, the NHIN CC and ONC will have to develop a sustainability model for the NHIN Exchange. This includes refining processes associated with the Exchange to make them more efficient and streamlined. For instance, reliance on automated conformance testing tools will make the on boarding process more efficient and less dependent on manual processes. To the extent that a certification program incorporates conformance with the NHIN Exchange technical specifications, the NHIN CC may consider relying on such certification. The NHIN CC and ONC discussed whether the NHIN Exchange could function as a “utility,” but ONC acknowledged that no decisions have been made on this point. These types of issues may be addressed in governance rule-making as ONC is

interpreting “NHIN governance” broadly. The NHIN CC must be prepared to react to whatever ONC establishes as NHIN governance through rule making. It must also carefully balance its need to strategically position itself to react to NHIN governance rule making and its support on-going operations of the NHIN Exchange.

Agenda Topic #3: ONC’s Vision for One NHIN

Farzad Mostashari shared ONC’s vision for one NHIN. Meaningful use is a driver to transform the delivery of healthcare. Adoption of electronic health records and interoperability will promote data exchange and support meaningful use. While ONC will use the NIEM framework for the development of NHIN standards, ONC does not have a particular instantiation of the standards, services and policies. Instead, the NHIN standards, services and policies will be used in different ways to support different use cases. The NHIN Exchange may represent an ideal model of exchange but before this declaration can be made, the NHIN CC and ONC must be convinced that the NHIN Exchange has “gotten it right.” Metrics demonstrating the success of the NHIN Exchange as a “referenceable” model will signal the success of the NHIN Exchange as well as concrete implementations and the exchange of data to improve care.

Agenda Topic #4: The NHIN as a “Brand”

The NHIN CC and ONC discussed whether participation in the NHIN Exchange could, at some point, equate to some sort of “NHIN seal of approval” for Participants. The group recognized that there is benefit to utilizing NHIN as a sort of brand as a distinguishing factor. To realize that value and to have the NHIN brand be recognized, however, there would need to be a vetting process associated with participation. This vetting process may look beyond technical conformity to privacy and security protections supported by the participants. For the brand to have value there would also need to be some consequences (e.g. loss of right to use the NHIN “brand”). The consequences could serve as an incentive for participants to continue conforming to NHIN requirements. Being associated with the NHIN could also provide consumers with some assurances that the participants are trustworthy. This topic was put forward for general consideration in light of the evolving NHIN, building upon experiences from the Exchange activity. Additional discussion is needed to more fully explore this concept.

Agenda Topic #5: Adjournment

After discussion among the Cooperative, NHIN CC, ONC and NeHC around the topics summarized above, the meeting adjourned. The NHIN CC and ONC reconvened in executive session.

Post Meeting Action Items:

Following the morning session, the NHIN CC held an executive session. The following action items were identified during that discussion:

Grouping	Activity	Description	Responsible	Target Date
Legal	Trust Framework	Expand legal framework to cover breadth of NHIN use cases	NHIN CC	September 2010
Operational	Operations / Sustainability	Define roles and responsibilities – identify recommended changes needed to streamline	ONC Tiger Team with CC Participation	August 2010
Business Functions	Value proposition	Summarize and quantify value propositions from Participants and weave into an overarching NHIN value proposition.	NeHC to coordinate with Participants; ONC – State Program	June 2010
	Metrics	Define metrics to measure success; monitor progress. ONC will serve as lead and work collaboratively with partners to define the measures, collect the data, etc.	ONC	August 2010 (after value proposition)
	Communications	Messaging – one NHIN – build brand Demystify on boarding / DURSA Value / lessons learned. Engagement strategy	NeHC in collaboration with ONC	Ongoing
	Lessons Learned – Education and Input to NHIN Governance	Capture lessons learned, write up Prepare comments / testimony for CC CC should provide input into pre-rulemaking, and at specific milestones in the rulemaking process	NeHC elicits information from CC	August 2010
Longer Term Vision	NHIN Road Map to One NHIN	One consensus roadmap to one NHIN – including learnings and quality improvement	ONC	Q4 2010